



City of Tucson
Charter Review Committee
Legal Action Report

DATE: Thursday, March 12, 2015
TIME: 5:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Morris K. Udall Regional Center
7200 E. Tanque Verde Road
Tucson, Arizona.

1. **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Chair Nye. Those present and absent were:

Members Present:

Kasey C. Nye
Stephanie Healy
Edna Meza-Aguirre
Tom Prezelski
Lenny Porges
Bonnie Poulos
Tannya R. Gaxiola
John A. Springer
Moon Joe Yee.
Randi Dorman
D. Grady Scott
Mark Crum

Members Absent

Richard Miranda
Diana Rhoades
John Hinderaker

Staff Present:

Deborah Rainone
Theo Fedele
Alma Armendariz-Murrieta

Appointer:

Mayor
Mayor
Ward 1
Ward 2
Ward 2
Ward 3
Ward 3
Ward 4
Ward 4
Ward 5
Ward 5
Ward 6

City Manager's Office

Ward 1
Ward 6

Representing:

Chief Deputy City Clerk
City Clerk's Office
City Clerk's Office

2. **Introduction of Committee Goals and Tentative Decisions by Chairperson Kasey Nye**

Introductory comments were provided by Chair Nye. He provided an overview and recommendations of the committee.

The committee members introduced themselves and who appointed them to the Committee.

Ms. Dorman explained the goals of the committee.

3. **Public Hearing - Committee Goals and Tentative Decisions**

Chair Nye opened the public hearing.

The following individuals spoke at the Public Hearing:

Larry Cochran spoke in favor of ward only elections, raising the sales tax cap, and giving the Mayor a vote. He also emphasized the value of quality early childhood education and the need to include it in the preamble of the Charter.

Paul Parisi spoke in support of strengthening the Mayor's role with the ability to vote, and supported ward only elections. He expressed concerns with granting the Mayor the veto power.

Benny White spoke in favor of ward only elections and in opposition of granting the Mayor veto power. He recommended the committee approach the clean-up corrections cautiously and suggested consulting the City Attorney to see if it could be done through the legislative process.

Bruce Ash spoke about the addition of the preamble, enumerated powers, a stronger Mayor, and ward only elections. Mr. Ash suggested approaching the gender references clean-up as scrivener's errors or have Mayor and Council do it legislatively.

Bruce Dusenberry spoke in support of ward only elections, annexations, the removal of a cap on the secondary property taxes, and the use of the sales tax revenue as collateral. He recommended clearly defining the role of the City Manager and supports the committee's recommendations regarding appointing and removing the department heads and civil service protection. Mr. Dusenberry favored Mayoral parity over a veto power and suggested an amendment to the Charter that would allow for additional wards.

Kenneth Miller spoke in support of ward only elections. He expressed concerns in the process since the recommendation will need to be approved by Mayor and Council in order to be placed on the ballot.

Mark Morrison spoke in opposition of City wide elections. He also submitted written comments regarding changes to the election of Council Members to be modeled after the election of State and Federal representatives.

Carolyn Cox spoke in support of ward only elections.

David Hermon suggested providing more power to the Mayor.

Walter Stephenson spoke in favor of ward only elections and expressed a concern that the current City Wide elections are a civil rights violation. He stated pursuing the arts is not a viable priority.

Claudia White spoke in support of ward only elections.

Chair Nye read the following comments from the comment cards:

Barbara Parks: "Any additional way that funding for children can be provided through City funds would be very helpful to families who qualify for DES but cannot get tuition assistance due to the long wait list. United Way scholarships are few and not enough to serve all the children who would benefit from early childhood education but families cannot afford a high quality school. Families whose income climbs lose their DES and go from paying a few dollars a week to over \$100 just because the parent has worked hard and earned a small pay increase and make just enough that they lose this assistance. Can the City of Tucson help with this?"

Gina Villarreal: "It is my recommendation that there should be an increase in the City sales tax cap. If it was raised, the Mayor and Council could recommend the funds be channeled into initiatives that would benefit the community, including investing in early childhood education. I use the term "invest" because research has shown that for every dollar spent on early childhood education, there is approximately a seven dollar return. High quality early childhood education is sorely needed in Tucson. We have the opportunity to not only benefit our City's children, but to also help Tucson's economy in the process."

Arby O'Reilly asked questions regarding the Committee's process and spoke in support of ward only elections. He also stated the economy should be the number one goal.

It was moved by Mr. Yee, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 12-0, to close the public hearing.

4. Adjournment 6:33 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Charter Review Committee will be held Wednesday, March 25, 2015, at 3:00 p.m. in the City Manager's Meeting Room (1st Floor), City Hall, 255 West Alameda, Tucson, Arizona.